

The Avalanche



North Cascades Audubon Society Newsletter

www.northcascadesaudubon.org

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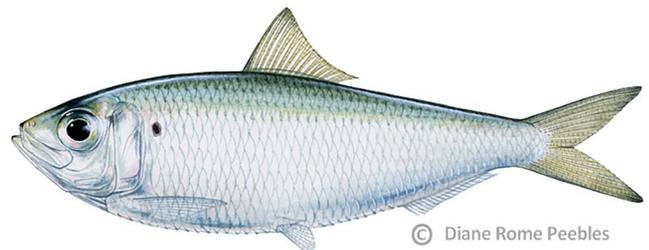
General Membership Meeting with Dr. Evelyn Brown

Stuck in the Middle: The Ecology, Knowledge Gaps or Misunderstandings, and Issues Surrounding Forage Fish

Forage fish occur in the middle of the marine or freshwater food chain, generally feeding on plankton in open waters. They are important prey for larger fish predators, seabirds, marine mammals, and humans. In the North Pacific, many of these species became economically important to non-indigenous humans in the 1800s. Stories of epic-sized sardine, anchovy, and herring fisheries are familiar to many. In recent times, forage fish have been caught in the crossfire of ecological conservation versus fisheries. Locally, the focus of interest has been on the schooling forage fish that utilize the nearshore for spawning and/or rearing. Dr. Brown will focus on these species, presenting basics about forage fish marine ecology and population dynamics as well as challenges for research and monitoring. Her presentation should provide a holistic understanding of the political and ecological controversies that are fueling heated discussions, litigation, and legislation. She will describe an approach to help solve these controversies, calm the debate, and provide for increased research and monitoring. Finally, she will discuss the critical role organizations play in citizen science efforts that fill the gaps in our understanding of forage fish. Partnerships among citizen's groups, agencies, organizations, and industry involved in scientific monitoring need to be increased not only because it is cost-effective, but because public engagement increases the awareness that ultimately leads to better policy decisions.

Dr. Evelyn Brown got her B.S. in chemistry and zoology at the University of Utah, and her M.S and Ph.D. in fisheries oceanography from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. She has worked as a fisheries scientist and biologist, a marine mammal observer, and a commercial fisher. In 1989, with the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, she was assigned Principal Investigator for herring damage assessment. In 2005 she moved to Washington State to do research as a consultant and contractor. This continued until 2014 when she accepted her current position at Lummi Natural Resources as their fisheries analyst. Her current focus is on salmon, crab and clams but her research extends to other topics in marine ecology, new forage fish monitoring programs, marine survival, climate change, and resource protection. In 2015, she was selected to serve on the Statistical and Scientific Committee (SSC) for the Pacific Fisheries Management Commission.

Always on the 4th Tuesday of the month:
November 28th, 7pm
Whatcom Museum Rotunda Room
free & open to the public!



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Mission Statement

The purpose of this society is to promote the study and conservation of birds and other wildlife, their habitat, and the environment; to increase public appreciation of the values of wildlife, plants, and the natural environment; and to stimulate action to protect and preserve them for the future.

Avalanche Staff

Designer/editor: Kelley Palmer-McGee

Writer/editor: Lynne Givler

If you are interested in contributing, the deadline for the January 2018 issue is...

December 15.

Send materials to:

content@northcascadesaudubon.org

NCAS Board Members

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Vice Pres.	Paul Woodcock	360-966-6549
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Newsletter	Kelley Palmer-McGee	360-466-8601
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Programs	Steven Harper	360-650-9065
Scholarship	Nicole Huson	
Website	Jamie Huson	
Member at Large	Rae Edwards	

Associated Persons

Scholarship	Don Burgess
Hospitality	Anne Ziomkowski

If you are interested in volunteering with our Audubon chapter, please contact the President at president@northcascadesaudubon.org

Our next board meeting is on November 6 at 7pm

Contact president@northcascadesaudubon.org
for more information.

NCAS Holiday Potluck Monday, December 11, 6-9 pm

YWCA Ballroom

1026 N Forest Street, Bellingham

Join us at the YWCA Ballroom to celebrate another great year of birds, birding, and our Audubon community. There will be live music, and Doug Brown, a local photographer and birder, will be presenting some of his photos. Please bring plates, utensils, and a dish to share. Coffee and tea will be provided.

Happy holidays!

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Your Donations Matter: Donate Today!

The North Cascades Audubon Society chapter serves members from all over Whatcom County and beyond. We aim to provide free and engaging educational opportunities to our community through outreach, public programs, *The Avalanche* newsletter, our website, and more. We're a chapter run by volunteers, and while most of what we do is free, we rely on our membership donations to keep this chapter running smoothly. If you haven't donated this year, please consider doing so for the holiday season.

Receive a year-long membership to North Cascades Audubon Society by sending a donation to:

North Cascades Audubon Society
PO Box 5805
Bellingham, WA 98227-5805

* Please indicate if you would like to receive a paper copy of *The Avalanche* for the coming year. *

NCAS is Seeking Binocular Donations

Do you have an old pair of binoculars lying around, in good working condition, that you don't use? **Consider bringing them to our next membership meeting (November 28, 7pm) to donate to NCAS.** We will be collecting binoculars to lend to new birders in the field so they can fully experience their time outside with the birds.

Wanted: Volunteer Coordinators

As North Cascades Audubon Society grows, so do our outreach opportunities in the community. This role is being created for individuals who want to help organize our volunteer base and create a rewarding volunteer experience for our members. The responsibilities of a volunteer coordinator will be any of the following:

- Communicate in person, over the phone or through email to volunteers
- Coordinate volunteers for events
- Manage rewards for outstanding volunteers
- Help to increase volunteerism throughout membership

We are looking forward to all the new and exciting events this coming year.

For more information about this role please contact Nicole Huson by emailing her at scholarships@northcascadesaudubon.org, or speak to her in person at our next membership meeting.

Winter Birds of Whatcom County South Whatcom (Sudden Valley): Saturday, November 4, 2-3pm

Who's that bird that just flew in? Join Chris Brewer with the North Cascades Audubon Society for a presentation about the many birds that migrate to our area for winter as well as those who reside here year-round. We'll look at the large seabird populations our waters draw, plus the bald eagles, hawks, owls and backyard passerines you can expect to see this season. Local bird photographer Ken Salzman provides amazing images. Lots of free information about birding will be available.

Open Mondays at Our New Location

Mon-Fri. 10-5:30
Sat. 10-4

108 Ohio St.
corner of Cornwall
Bellingham
360-734-0969

WildBirdChalet.com



November and December Field Trips

Ken Salzman, Field Trip Chair

Late fall and winter in the Pacific Northwest can provide some of the best and most exciting birding of the year. Some shorebirds are still on the move and waterfowl are arriving. So grab your binoculars and field guide and come along for some great birding.

Our goal is to provide quality field trips that are enjoyable and educational for all levels of birders. Our field trip leaders, and many of the participants, are enthusiastic about answering questions and helping everyone to focus in on the birds we encounter. So join us for the fun.

North Cascades Audubon field trips are open to everyone, members and non-members, free of charge. See you in the field!

Saturday, November 4, Semiahmoo Spit

Time: 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park - ~3 hours

Trip Leader: Paul Woodcock

No registration required

These monthly trips are co-sponsored by NCAS and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation and are meant for birders of all skill levels. If you are not a birder but just curious, you are more than welcome to come along and share the experience. November is the start of increasing numbers of both seabirds and waterfowl making the birding experience very exciting.

Saturday, November 18, Lake Padden

Time: 9AM-Noon

Trip Leader: Ken Salzman

To register contact Ken Salzman at 360-756-0347 or kpsalzman@comcast.net

November is the month that waterfowl start showing up at Lake Padden. Eurasian wigeon has been a rarity that has shown up during the month of November in the past. This is an easy walk and a great trip for both beginners and experts.

Saturday, December 2, Semiahmoo Spit

Time: 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park - ~3 hours

Trip Leader: Paul Woodcock

No registration required

These monthly trips are co-sponsored by NCAS and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation and are meant for birders of all skill levels. December is prime time for birding the spit.

Saturday, December 16: Ferry CBC
Sunday, December 17: Whatcom CBC
Saturday, December 30: Family CBC

Saturday, January 6, Semiahmoo Spit

Time: 9 AM at Semiahmoo Park - ~3 hours

Trip Leader: Lynne Givler

No registration required

These monthly trips are co-sponsored by NCAS and Whatcom County Parks & Recreation and are meant for birders of all skill levels. Besides seabirds, there is always the possibility of vagrants.

Help Wanted

Field trip leaders are needed!

We are looking for those of you with:

1. A love of and enthusiasm for birding
2. A reasonable knowledge of and skill related to identification of birds in our area
3. A willingness to share your knowledge and skill related to birding

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions about becoming a trip leader please contact Ken Salzman at: 360-756-0347 or kpsalzman@comcast.net.

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2017 San Juan Ferry Christmas Bird Count

Saturday, December 16

Make your holidays memorable by participating in NCAS's one-of-a-kind Christmas Bird Count (CBC) aboard the Washington State Ferry from Anacortes to Sydney B.C. and back. NCAS will cover the cost of the ferry passage for a limited number of counters. This challenging count has been conducted annually, whatever the weather, since the mid-1970s. Clayton and Linda Snider, who have been leading this count for the past ten years, are looking for a few volunteers to assist with some challenging birding. If you are interested in participating in the San Juan Ferry CBC please contact Clayton or Linda Snider at 360-738-2232.

2017 Whatcom County Christmas Bird Count

Sunday, December 17

Annually between December 14 and January 5, tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the world take part in an adventure that has become a holiday tradition. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission to count birds - often from dawn to dusk. For over one hundred years, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of our natural environment has driven dedicated people to get out in woods, fields and wetlands to celebrate the holidays.

The National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a citizen science effort, conducted by thousands of community members whose purpose is to collect data on bird populations across the continent while celebrating the holidays and enjoying the wonders of nature. The CBC in Bellingham has been held annually since 1967, making this our 51st year. So come celebrate and participate! For more information on the Bellingham CBC please go to www.northcascadesaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-count/#.

Participation in the Bellingham CBC is free. Results will be published by National Audubon in an online version of *American Birds* during the summer of 2018. You can find much more information on this event, as well as annual results and summaries, at birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count.

If you are interested in participating in the Bellingham CBC please contact Doug Brown at bblackcat@comcast.net or 360-647-1657.

How Our CBC Works

The Bellingham CBC circle is comprised of over 100,000 acres of Whatcom County stretching from Cherry Point to the west end of Lake Whatcom, and from Willey's Lake to Fairhaven Park. The circle is divided into 25 areas and each area is assigned a leader, an experienced birder who organizes the counters in his or her area. It is the leader's responsibility to gather the group needed to assure an accurate count. Many of our leaders have been faithfully doing this work annually for decades. Whatever the weather, most of the count parties are in the field from dawn to dusk on count day, or longer if they are searching for owls. The goal is to carry out useful citizen science while enjoying the CBC holiday tradition.

Volunteering

It is our goal to include all who wish to volunteer for the CBC experience, but in turn we ask that all volunteers consider the conditions and take the time commitment seriously. If you are interested please contact Doug Brown at bblackcat@comcast.net or 360-647-1657. He will refer you to an area leader who needs assistance.



December Holiday Family Bird Count

Saturday, December 30

8:30am - ~ 2:30pm
\$15 per family (scholarships available)
Space is limited, register early at
(336) 207-7505 or chrisboyd353@gmail.com

Families can join NCAS and Wild Whatcom for a fun day during winter holiday break to participate in a bird count at Lake Padden. Each year NCAS joins in the global Christmas Bird Count but our Family Bird Count occurs after the CBC so families can enjoy participating in this winter bird outing together. Our day starts at the Cedar Grove Clubhouse on Bullard Lake for a morning overview of birds we might see. Next, we head across the road to Lake Padden for our bird count. Back at the Clubhouse we'll compile our data while we warm up and have lunch.

Children must be accompanied by at least one adult who can drive one mile from the Clubhouse to Lake Padden. Bring your own sack lunches; Audubon will provide nutritious drinks and a morning snack.

North Cascades Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

October 2, 2017, 7:00 PM

Board Members Present: Pam Borso, Paul Woodcock, Steven Harper, Sue Parrott, Ken Salzman, Rae Edwards, Owen Bamford, Nicole Huson, Jamie Huson, Chris Brewer, Judy Krieger and Kelley Palmer-McGee

1. Additions to Agenda – No additions
2. Approval of September Minutes - Approved

3. Treasurer's Report – Sue discussed the treasurer's report. She asked Pam when the annual report to National Audubon will be submitted, as we will not receive our dues from National until the report is filed. She noted that membership dues are lower than budgeted. The board discussed some of the problems/weaknesses with the current membership database. Owen stated that he does not contact individuals who do not pay dues in response to their annual reminder as the database does not make it easy to do this. However, he stated he could go back one year and find out which members are overdue and send them a reminder. The board agreed this was worth doing. The board discussed the logistics of our membership reminders and how we could expand our efforts. Kelley will add some information to the newsletter to encourage people to donate and we will also begin reminding people of the importance of memberships at the monthly meetings. Sue and Kelley will work on getting advertising income for the 2018 newsletters.

4. Committee Reports as needed:

Education Update – Background checks all came back negative so everyone is cleared to work with children.

- The committee is investigating doing a bald eagle program in late fall or early winter of 2018. People interested in helping and with ideas should contact the committee.

- Nicole suggested sending out a survey to our membership to see if they are interested in volunteering and what their interests might be. These people could then be assigned to different projects. Another option would be placing surveys on chairs at the membership meetings and gathering information. This effort could give us an idea of what our capacity as an organization may be. We can possibly recruit additional people for the board as well. Nicole has access to an on-line survey used by another Audubon chapter and will make some changes to it to better reflect our organization's needs. The board thought it would be good to get the survey out this fall.

Scholarship Committee – The committee is meeting Wed., Oct. 4 at 5 pm to begin developing criteria for our student scholarships.

Website Update - No update but Jamie will work on this for next meeting.

5. Communications & Input

Audubon National Convention Report

- Jamie gave a report on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the threat of exploratory oil drilling. The Trump Administration is trying to open up the Refuge by using the budget process. Jamie and Nicole believe NCAS should make an effort to get members to take action to protect this area. Board agreed. The board also discussed other actions that members could participate in including actions protesting the potential mining near Mt. St. Helens. Jamie will contact National Audubon to find out when the best timing would be to ask NCAS members to take action on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

- Jamie discussed actions National Audubon is taking to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund and to pass an extension of the expiration date for this fund.

WOS meeting update: Pam, Ken, Chris and Paul reported that the field trips went well, that the meeting was well organized and everyone was really friendly.

Newsletter input due by October 15 for the November newsletter.

Fall Migration with John Bower – Hopefully this can be arranged for next year. Chris will try to contact John.

6. Old Business

Swan Donation – No update.

CBC Update – Paul will again contact the Squalicum Yacht Club and make reservations for the after-count potluck. We will ask for donations to support the cost. Doug Brown and Steven Harper will be in charge of the CBC as Paul will be out of the country.

Holiday Party – The event will be at the YWCA. Pam and Nicole will check out the space, size and shape of tables, etc. Pam will ask Ann, our hospitality person, if she would like to help out. Doug Brown will be doing the program and Pam Borso and friends will be providing music.

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Audubon Council of Washington meeting – Pam, Paul, Chris, Nicole and Jamie will be attending. It will be in Sequim on October 14.
Update on Duck Feeding Signs – No update.

8. Programs & Events

Audubon at the Museum - October 22 and November 26, 1:30 – 3:30

October 24	Ed Deal	Seattle's Adaptable Urban Cooper's Hawks
November 28	Evelyn Brown	Stuck in the Middle: The Ecology, Knowledge Gaps or Misunderstandings, and Issues Surrounding Forage Fish

December 11 Holiday Party at YWCA

Whatcom Museum - Audubon presence January 18, 2018 (presentation for Museum Advocates group)

January 24	James Walker	Dragonflies and Damselflies
February 27	Dick McNeely	Unusual Bird Videos
April	Dan Streiffert	Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Presentation

Adjourn - Next Meeting, November 6, 2017. Improv Playworks: 1011 Girard St, Bellingham, WA 98225



Northern flicker, photo by Andrew Reding

Stop Mining at Mt. St. Helens

The following is excerpted from information provided by the Willapa Hills Audubon Society.

For over ten years Audubon chapters and other conservation organizations have successfully opposed mining at Goat Mountain on the northeastern border of the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. But in August, the U.S. Forest Service issued a draft decision to support exploratory drilling permits from the Bureau of Land Management to Ascot Resources.

Unfortunately, if Ascot Resources proves a commercially viable mineral deposit, it will be difficult to stop permitting of a mine. The mining site has important conservation and recreation value, and mining in the site could be dangerous. Not only does it have the potential to pollute, it could set a precedent for mineral development on over 5 million acres of land bought with the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Nearby is northern spotted owl breeding habitat. The Green-Toutle River that runs through the area supports endangered steelhead and is a State-designated Wild Steelhead Gene Bank.

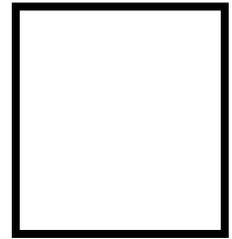
Want more information?

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=46996>

<https://cascadeforest.org/our-work/mining/>

*Add your signature to the petition included on the cascadeforest.org website.
 Show that public opposition remains strong to this mining project!*

North Cascades Audubon Society
PO Box 5805
Bellingham, WA 98227-5805



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Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @NCascadeAudubon



The Avalanche is the newsletter of the North Cascades Audubon Society, PO Box 5805, Bellingham, WA 98227. It is published 8 times a year; subscriptions start at \$20 per year. The editors welcome articles, artwork, photographs, and letters. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of this organization. Original material may be reprinted if appropriate credit is given. The North Cascades Audubon Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

North Cascades Audubon Society Membership

We hope you will support North Cascades Audubon by joining the chapter locally. Your commitment to Audubon is important to us. We will continue to provide you with information regarding local chapter activities through our website and all activities will remain FREE and open to the public. If you are interested in receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, you can join the local chapter for one year at any of the levels to your right. The newsletter is published monthly between September and May, including a double issue for November/December. All issues are also available online. If you do not wish to receive a paper copy, email membership@northcascadesaudubon.org.

Please check your mailing labels for accuracy, including the expiration date. To make any necessary changes, please send an email to membership@northcascadesaudubon.org.

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Please make checks payable to North Cascades Audubon.

Each membership applies to one household.

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